ever, a very real dilemma facing colleges and universities in disclosing facts that reveal their weaknesses as well as their strengths.

Harold Orlans, an authority on consumer protection in postsecondary education, conceded in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (November 18, 1974): "The cause of improved education would be enormously aided if some impartial yet fearless agency would issue vivid and candid reports on colleges and schools of the sort Consumer Union publishes on commodities."

Without leadership from the upper echelons of campus organizations, it cannot be expected that sources of limited authority (such as directors of admission, financial aid, or career planning) will unite to take action. The ponderous committee process on individual campuses and other complex means of establishing consensus are huge barriers to the consumer-oriented prospectus. Strong leadership must be exercised.

The practical problems of collecting and disseminating information to student consumers—with which the College Board itself has grappled for decades—will have to be given renewed emphasis. Some of these problem areas include:

- Choosing information and data that are truly significant from the student point of view.
- Insuring that data is accurate and supported by verifiable facts.
- Issuing information that is increasingly comparable to that available from other institutions.
- Developing techniques and standards for balancing biases of campus writers with the need for symmetry in behalf of students.
- Recognizing that the existence of improved information does not guarantee that students will actually read or use it properly, and that the real issue remains one of improved instruction in decision-making for students.

The opportunity and necessity to upgrade information available for student choice is a compelling one. The process is continual and directly related to the need for ongoing institutional self-study.

The inaction of colleges and universities invites outside intervention and student discontent. Intervention always causes distortion of objectives, and it frequently results in normative rather than substantive change. Action incurs the risk of disclosure of any sensitive information that portrays the campus in an objective manner; however, in reality there should be little fear in revealing facts about campus life-style, dropout rates, graduate job placement, or the essentials of financing an education at a particular campus. The point is that these facts should be weighed carefully before deciding on a course of action.

Overall, building a consumer-oriented prospectus will be costly, time consuming, and risky. However, the process produces substantially more gains than losses. Both publishers and readers will develop a clearer understanding of what the campus really has to offer. When campuses are found to be particularly deficient in certain areas, these findings will obviously provide the incentive for improvement. Also, student consumers will obtain more pertinent and usable information, directly from the institution, without having to rely heavily on outside sources. While a somewhat risky venture for the institution, both student and campus stand to benefit from the emergence of consumerism in higher education-and the lack of candor which has prevailed during the past decades of growth will be met by reality. After all, reality is the state of having an actual existence - and the truth behind appearances. American higher education, in its written communications with the society and the individual learners it serves, could do no better than reflect such truthfulness.

College Board Review Index

This index lists articles and authors published in *The College Board Review* in issues No. 93 (Fall 1974) through No. 100 (Summer 1976).

Articles are arranged by major subject, with earliest articles under each subject heading listed first, and in the authors' index alphabetically by author. Articles covering more than one subject appear under each appropriate subject heading. Figures after each entry indicate issue number and page number.

Previous indexes have been published in *The College Board Review* as follows: for issue No. 85 through 92 – 93:25; for issues No. 77 through 84 – 85:39; for issues No. 69 through 76 – 77:26; for issues No. 61 through 68 – 69:34; for issues No. 54 through 60 – 60:26; for issues No. 48 through 53 – 54:30; for issues No. 36 through 47 – 47:32; for issues No. 24 through 35 – 35:25; for issues No. 1 through 23 – 23:450.

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